

Message Text

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44

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-07 INR-05 LAB-01

NSAE-00 RSC-01 SIL-01 PM-03 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15

DODE-00 PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01 AID-05 INT-05 GSA-01 L-02

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FM AMEMBASSY KINGSTON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6344

INFO AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ELAB, EINV, JM, GY

SUBJECT: GUYANA MINEWORKERS UNION LEADERS VISIT JAMAICA

REF: GEORGETOWN 2064

1. GUYANA MINE WORKERS UNION (GMWU) PRESIDENT WINSTON VERBEKE AND GENERAL SECRETARY PHILBERT BENJAMIN MET WITH SENATOR CARLYLE DUNKLEY, ACTING PRESIDENT OF THE NATIONAL WORKERS UNION (NWU) AND PRESIDENT OF THE CARIBBEAN BAUXITE MINES AND METAL WORKERS FEDERATION, NOVEMBER 21. IN POST-MEETING PRESS CONFERENCE DUNKLEY REAFFIRMED NWU SUPPORT FOR THE GMWU IN ITS ATTEMPTS TO OBTAIN ADEQUATE COMPENSATION FOR WORKERS EMPLOYED BY REYNOLDS IN GUYANA AND SAID NWU WOULD TAKE WHATEVER ACTION DEEMED NECESSARY IF THE ISSUE WAS NOT SUITABLY RESOLVED. HE DID NOT, HOWEVER, COMMIT THE NWU TO ANY FORM OF ACTION.

2. VERBEKE ACCUSED REYNOLDS OF USING GMWU EMPLOYEES AS "PAWNS IN AN EFFORT TO EMBARRASS THE GUYANESE GOVERNMENT", BUT AVOIDED COMMENT ON THE SUBSTANCE OF

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THE DISPUTE BETWEEN REYNOLDS AND THE GOG. HE SAID

THAT HIS UNION PROTESTED THE LAYING OFF OF 357 WORKERS BY THE COMPANY ON THE GROUNDS THAT IT SELF-IMPOSED THE NON-ACTIVITY NOW EXPERIENCED, ADDING THAT ANY REDUCTION OF THE WORK FORCE WOULD CALL FOR FULL SEVERANCE PAY FOR ALL WORKERS IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE PROVISIONS OF THE COLLECTIVE LABOR AGREEMENT. HE ALSO SAID THAT THE PENSION FUNDS, ON THE BASIS OF THOSE PAYMENTS SUBMITTED FOR INCOME TAX PURPOSES, SHOULD BE REPATRIATED TO GUYANA FOR THE CREATION OF A PENSION FUND FOR THE WORKERS, CONSEQUENT UPON NATIONALIZATION OF REYNOLDS IN GUYANA.

3. COMMENT: GMWU REPS WERE UNSUCCESSFUL IN THEIR ATTEMPT TO SEE PM MANLEY. APPEARS GOJ TRYING TO PLAY VISIT IN LOW KEY AND STRICTLY IN TRADE UNION CHANNEL. GERARD

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Message Attributes

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Draft Date: 25 NOV 1974
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Disposition Approved on Date:
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Disposition Case Number: n/a
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Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
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Disposition Reason:
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